

WALLOWA RANGER STATION, FIRE EQUIPMENT BUILDING
602 First Street (Warehouse #2208)
Wallowa
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-157-C

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
WALLOWA RANGER STATION, Fire Equipment Building HABS No. OR-157-C
(Warehouse #2208)

Location: 602 First Street, Wallowa, Wallowa County, Oregon

Significance: A typical building for a ranger station complex, the fire equipment building is an integral part of the overall design scheme. The fire equipment building displays exterior details which match the other four station buildings: wide horizontal siding, board and batten with zig-zag cut ends, cut-out tree symbols and squared timber posts.

Description: The rectangular one and one half story fire equipment building is a nailed wood frame structure with a poured concrete foundation. It is sheathed with a wood shingled medium pitched gable roof. An intersecting off-set gable extends over the loading dock. The building exterior is sided with wide cedar lap siding and the gable ends are covered in board and batten with decorative zig-zag cut-ends.

Windows on the front elevation are nine light wood casement. A band of three windows flanked by decorative shutters, are to the south of the entrance. A single multi-pane fixed window is to the north of the entrance. On the side elevations at the first floor are three evenly spaced nine light windows, all with decorative wood shutters. At the second floor is a tripartite window comprised of three six light windows. Three evenly spaced windows flanked by decorative shutters are on the rear elevation.

The intersecting off-set gable porch roof covers a loading dock and is supported by 8"x 8" square timber posts grouped in threes, with brackets. Clad with board and batten, the gable end of the porch roof has a cut-out tree symbol in the center. The porch ceiling is 4" beveled board. The loading dock, situated 3' above grade, is accessed by wood plank stairs. The floor of the loading dock is 9"x 1 1/2" wood plank and the floor edge is framed with a 4"x 12" wood 'bumper'. Horizontal board skirting covers the concrete block foundation. A large vertical board sliding door on the front elevation leads to the interior.

Interior: The ceiling on the first floor is painted masonite; the walls are horizontal 7" wide wood plank, and the floor is 5" wide wood plank. A post and beam structural system runs the length of the first floor. The posts are 5"x 5" with plain square brackets. A room measuring 9' wide by 22'6" long, is sectioned off at the southeast corner. Various tool bins are built around the perimeter. Stairs along the north wall lead to a large unfinished space with an enclosed room at the south end. The room measures 23' long and 11'9" wide and is finished with horizontal 7" wide knotty pine plank walls and ceiling. The floor is masonite. The flooring in the unfinished attic space is 1"x 7" planks.

Alterations: A toilet and shower were under the stairs and crew quarters were added upstairs in 1957. Tool bins were built in 1960 on the first floor. All work was supervised and performed by Ivan Carper. Original plans show this building as having a stone foundation, however the existing concrete foundation is probably original. Also the plans show two options for the first floor plan. Option "A" shows a pair of large doors on the "end" (south) elevation and for a "truck space" to be located in the center of the building. Option "B" eliminated the doors and truck space from the design. Option "B" was selected for construction.

History: The fire equipment building was originally used to store fire equipment and horse tack. Horses, however were not kept on site. When the second floor room was constructed, the building housed seasonal firefighters.

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Sources. Throop, E. Gail, Historian, Recreation Unit, Regional Office USDA, Forest Service, Portland, Oregon. *Wallowa Ranger Station Evaluation Report*, January 8, 1982. Site Analysis by Sally Donovan and Kimberly Lakin, May 1991. Original blueprints from the files of Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor's Office Baker City, Oregon.

Historian: Kimberly Lakin, June 1991.